



Kirkburton Middle School

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Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

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Dear Parent and Carer

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to everybody who took the time to complete our annual parent survey last term. Your views are very important to us and the feedback given has been shared and considered at all levels across the school and the wider trust. As an organisation, we are always looking for ways in which we can improve our service; the parent survey responses play a very important part in this process.

This letter contains a snapshot of the survey responses – both positive and those areas where some parents feel the school can improve. The full survey results can be found at the end of this letter, along with a more detailed response to some of the most common points / areas raised by parents – we hope you find these useful.

The views of families new to our school

Higher scoring areas

- My first impressions of the school have been good.
- The school's website provided me with the necessary information I needed as a new parent.
- I would recommend the school to a member of my family or a friend.
- The school has delivered high-quality teaching.
- My child has settled into a good routine at school.

Lower scoring areas

- The school has provided high-quality play/outdoor areas for my child.
- My child has found homework effective and engaging.
- My child has been adequately supported with any additional needs they have.

The views of our existing families

Higher scoring areas

- My child feels safe in school.
- My child feels safe on school trips.
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.



- The school has clear routines and expectations for the behaviour of all pupils across all aspects of school life.
- I know how my child is progressing at school.
- The school lets me know how my child is doing.

Lower scoring areas

- My child enjoys going to school.
- The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year
- I am encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school
- Communication from the school is effective and timely
- I know who the governors are and how to contact them

Thank you once again for taking the time to complete our parent survey. If you have anything further you would like to feedback on the work of our school, please contact the school office.

Please see below for a more detailed response to some of the most common points raised by parents.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Executive Headteacher



Mrs S Kerr
Head of School



Our response to some common comments

You said: I would like to know more about what my child will learn during the year.

Our response: Our [full curriculum plans can be found on the school website](#) in the 'subjects' section. These were also sent to all parents at the start of the year. The curriculum plans show what children will be learning each half-term. If you would like to know more about what your child will be studying in a particular subject, please contact their subject teacher.

You said: Some parents raised concerns about the level of information they received in relation to their child's progress in school.

Our response: We provide termly updates on your child's progress in school either through an interim report, full report or parents' evening. Full details about how we assess your child's progress in school can be found on the school website [here \(key stage 2\)](#) and [here \(key stage 3\)](#). If you have any questions about your child's progress at any point during the school year, we ask you make contact with the subject teacher in the first instance and at that moment in time – there is no need to wait for a parents' evening.

You said: Some parents raised concerns about pupil behaviour in our school

Our response: Full details of our behaviour expectations and responses can be found in our [behaviour policy on the school website](#). We set very high expectations for pupils in relation to behaviour and we make no apologies for this. We aim to instil a culture across the whole school where working hard is the norm and the associated success is something to be celebrated by all. The overwhelming majority of our pupils excel in this area on a daily basis. Where pupils fail to meet our high expectations, we use a variety of approaches to support pupils to modify and improve their behaviours. This will often involve a combination of restorative and educational work, a learning from our mistakes approach, as well as punitive sanctions. The pastoral and behaviour support team run programmes throughout the year to support pupils where needed – we always aim to be proactive rather than reactive. If you have any concerns regarding behaviour in any of your child's classes, please contact school so we can look in to this further. Often, the story you hear from your child may be very different to what is actually happening within school.

You said: Various comments were raised in relation to homework. Some parents complained there was too much, some said not enough. Some parents like the online nature of many homework tasks whereas others wanted to see more paper-based resources and opportunities for extended writing.

Our response: Homework is always an area which divides opinion. Many parents feel we do not set enough homework; contrary to this, many parents say we set too much homework. We recognise homework is an area which needs developing and we are currently reviewing our approaches. Like it or not, homework helps pupils develop positive study habits which they will need as they move up the school and on to high school. Regular homework also supports pupils to retain and recall knowledge which in turn can improve levels of attainment and progress.

We are looking at increasing the levels of academic rigour across our school in order to ensure the academic jump from year 8 to 9 is as seamless as possible – homework will play a key part in this. We are considering introducing year 7 and 8 exam weeks where pupils will be taught how to revise for exams and will then practise taking a large number of assessments in a short space of time. The exam weeks will be

very much seen as a learning experience and as such, all we ask is that pupils try their hardest both with their revision beforehand and also during the exam week itself.

You said: Some parents raised concerns about the school's responses to bullying.

Our response: We strive to make our school a safe and happy place for everyone. We work tirelessly to create an environment in which commonalities are identified and celebrated, difference is valued and nurtured, and bullying, harassment and violence are never tolerated. As part of the [personal, social, health and economic \(PSHE\) curriculum](#), pupils learn about bullying – what is and what isn't bullying, the impact it can have on others and what they must do if they are being bullied or know somebody who is being bullied. These messages are reinforced throughout the wider curriculum and also through pastoral work in form time and assemblies. Should the school become aware of incidents of bullying, we will work closely with families to reach a swift resolution. Full details about how we respond to bullying can be found in our [anti-bullying policy](#).

You said: I am concerned about some of the WhatsApp groups my child is part of.

Our response: We too have serious concerns about this. The age rating for WhatsApp is 16+ meaning it is not suitable for our pupils. We are dealing with more and more incidents which stem from WhatsApp or other similar group chats – many of our children are simply not mature enough to use these chats. Where online incidents cause issues in school, they will be dealt with in line with the school behaviour policy. Where incidents occur outside of school, we will provide support wherever we can however we are not always in a position to do so. If you have serious concerns about comments made to your child online, this should be referred to the police. To support us in this work, we ask that parent's routinely sit down with their child and go through the content on their phones and other devices. You pay the bill!

You said: I feel more distant from my child's schooling since they moved to middle school.

Our response: We want Kirkburton Middle School to be a true community school. As such, we very much welcome parental input. We recognise you may not have the regular face to face contact you had with staff in the first schools however we are always here should you need us. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns – there is no such thing as a silly question. These are usually best directed to your child's form tutor in the first instance. There are many opportunities for parents to get further involved in the life of the school. These include joining our governing body, helping to start a PTA / friends of Kirkburton group (we'd love to hear from you if that's you!), becoming a reading volunteer, or offering to come and speak to the pupils about your job or career at our regular working lunch club. There are many other ways you can help support the school, please contact the school office if you could offer some support.

You said: Communication could be improved.

Our response: Communication is always something that is difficult to get right. What one person may see as too much communication, another person may see as too little. We try and direct our communications as much as we can however this isn't always possible. We do share a lot of general news via social media; this allows people to opt in or out on their own accord [Kirkburton Middle School Facebook](#) .

You said: Some parents raised concerns around staff absence and turnover

Our response: Staff absences occur for a variety of reasons, some planned e.g. teacher on a school trip, others unplanned e.g. illness. For short term absence, your child's lesson will normally be taken by a

member of our in-house cover team. These colleagues know your children well and are in the best position to provide a continuity of education in the short term. For longer term absences, the school will aim to secure the services of a qualified teacher from local supply agencies. Currently there is a national shortage of teachers in specific subjects and there have been occasions recently where we have struggled to recruit to vacancies. Where this occurs, we look to bring in subject specialist supply teachers. We will also sometimes rotate our own staff between classes in order to support with a continuity of education for all children.

You said: A couple of parents questioned our approaches to PE fixtures and competitions.

Our response: As with some other aspects of school life, this is an area where people often have quite polarised views. At Kirkburton we aim to strike a balance so our offer is fair to all. We aim to ensure sport is accessible to all and often our approach is based around principles of inclusivity. We also recognise that as pupils get older, sport becomes more competitive in nature and as such there will be some occasions where we adopt more of a 'play to win' philosophy. All decisions taken by our PE staff are in the best interests of all our children and we are passionate about ensuring all pupils have access to and enjoy a wide variety of sports and activities.

You said: Some parents said they didn't know who our school governors are or how to contact them.

Our response: Please see [the governor page of the school website](#) for further information.

You said: Some parents of pupils with SEND questioned the levels of provision and support for their child. There were also some questions raised in relation to communication.

Our response: All parents of SEND pupils receive a letter from the SENDCO in the first half term of the academic year sharing direct contact details with our SENDCO and explaining timelines of when support plans will be shared. Alongside this letter, the intervention offer for the school is also shared. The SENDCO is available at all parents' evenings for set appointments and parents are welcome to make direct contact at any time with questions or concerns. Support plans are shared in the winter term and reviewed twice, during the spring and summer terms.

The SEND policy, report and further information is available to all parents on the [SEND page of school website](#).

Useful information

Social media

NSPCC social media guidance - [Social media | NSPCC](#)

Safer internet centre, social media platform guides - [Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Thinkuknow, 'Is your child ready for social media' - [social media \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

Parental monitoring information - [Parental Control Apps – Online Safety Review - Safer Schools \(oursaferschools.co.uk\)](#)

Mental health and wellbeing

Kirklees Keep in mind - Helps young people in Kirklees access timely support to improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing <https://kirklees-keep-in-mind.nhs.uk/>

NSPCC - Support for Parents and Children , <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> 0808 800 5000

Full Survey Results

New Parents – 56 responses

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My first impressions of the school have been good.	41%	45%	7%	5%	2%	0%
The school's website provided me with the necessary information I needed as a new parent.	25%	59%	11%	4%	2%	0%
The school's website was easy to navigate.	20%	57%	16%	4%	4%	0%
The school website gave me an accurate impression about school life	23%	39%	32%	4%	2%	0%
I feel I have made the right choice of school for my child.	39%	41%	11%	5%	2%	2%
I would recommend the school to a member of my family or a friend.	36%	48%	11%	2%	4%	0%
I was impressed with what I saw at the schools open evening	32%	50%	11%	0%	0%	7%
The school has delivered high-quality teaching.	27%	55%	11%	4%	2%	2%
The school has offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities.	36%	43%	16%	4%	2%	0%
The school has provided high-quality play/outdoor areas for my child.	21%	34%	39%	4%	0%	2%
My child has found homework effective and engaging.	14%	36%	27%	18%	4%	2%
Communication from the school has been regular, clear and effective.	32%	36%	13%	18%	2%	0%
My child's class teacher or form tutor has been available when we have had any educational concerns.	29%	27%	11%	9%	0%	25%
I have been kept informed about changes that affect my child.	27%	46%	9%	13%	4%	2%
I have received sufficient information about how well my child is doing at school.	32%	41%	5%	18%	4%	0%
The school's administration processes have been smooth and effective.	30%	46%	13%	9%	2%	0%
My child has settled into a good routine at school.	41%	46%	7%	4%	2%	0%
Both my child and I have benefitted from the welcome / transition process.	38%	43%	13%	5%	2%	0%
My child feels safe and happy at school.	39%	38%	9%	13%	2%	0%

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My child is engaged and learns effectively at school.	32%	43%	20%	4%	2%	0%
My child has had the opportunity to access technology to aid their learning.	21%	48%	13%	7%	0%	11%
I feel that my child's wellbeing has been well supported during their transition to a new setting.	27%	43%	13%	11%	5%	2%
My child has been adequately supported with any additional needs they have.	14%	23%	13%	7%	4%	39%
I would recommend this school to another parent	34%	45%	13%	5%	4%	0%

Existing Parents – 104 responses

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My child feels safe in school	35%	54%	7%	5%	0%	0%
My child feels safe in after school clubs	23%	24%	9%	0%	0%	44%
My child feels safe on school trips	31%	56%	4%	0%	0%	10%
My child knows who to speak to if they are upset or unhappy at school	32%	47%	13%	7%	1%	0%
The school teaches my child how to recognise risks to their wellbeing – both online and offline	19%	56%	22%	2%	1%	0%
The school teaches my child to have an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and sex education	13%	63%	19%	4%	0%	1%
The school teaches my child to treat pupils of other genders with respect	21%	58%	13%	8%	0%	0%
The school teaches my child to stay safe online	19%	59%	20%	2%	0%	0%
My child is happy at school	23%	40%	20%	12%	4%	1%
My child enjoys going to school	16%	45%	8%	25%	5%	1%
The school teaches my child strategies to maintain a good level of mental health	14%	41%	29%	12%	4%	0%
The school develops my child's understanding of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance and respect	14%	40%	39%	3%	1%	1%
The school teaches my child to enjoy learning about themselves, others and the world around them	17%	60%	20%	3%	0%	0%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	30%	60%	3%	4%	1%	3%

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The extra-curricular activities offered by the school are of a high quality	21%	36%	26%	6%	1%	11%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	15%	49%	19%	13%	3%	0%
Behaviour in the school is excellent	7%	38%	36%	15%	4%	0%
My child has never been bullied at school	15%	37%	13%	26%	9%	0%
Bullying and discrimination is dealt with quickly, effectively and consistently	11%	24%	30%	10%	7%	19%
The school has a calm, orderly environment which helps my child to learn	9%	53%	22%	12%	4%	1%
The school has clear routines and expectations for the behaviour of all pupils across all aspects of school life	24%	56%	13%	5%	3%	0%
My child is encouraged to have good attendance and punctuality	38%	54%	7%	1%	1%	0%
The school's curriculum is helping my child to progress	16%	60%	11%	9%	4%	1%
I know how my child is progressing at school	24%	59%	11%	3%	3%	1%
I know my child's targets and next steps	15%	52%	13%	18%	1%	0%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	13%	45%	20%	20%	0%	1%
The school has high expectations for my child	18%	51%	19%	9%	2%	1%
My child does well at this school	21%	51%	16%	7%	3%	1%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	23%	60%	7%	8%	2%	0%
I know and understand the school's vision	7%	49%	25%	17%	2%	0%
I am encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school	4%	36%	33%	24%	2%	2%
My child's teachers are happy and well looked after	7%	26%	59%	4%	0%	5%
Communication from the school is effective and timely	16%	53%	11%	14%	5%	0%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	17%	38%	13%	12%	6%	14%
I know who the governors are and how to contact them	4%	28%	15%	45%	8%	0%
I know the school is part of the Mast Academy Trust	43%	57%	0%	0%	0%	0%

SEND Support – 26 responses

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	23%	42%	12%	12%	4%	4%
The school values the views, wishes and feelings of my child	31%	35%	15%	12%	8%	0%
The school provides me with the necessary information and support	31%	38%	15%	12%	4%	0%
I know what support is in place to help my child make progress	35%	42%	8%	12%	4%	0%
I know who the SENCO is and how to contact them	62%	35%	4%	0%	0%	0%
I have received a copy of my child's SEN support plan	50%	42%	0%	0%	4%	4%
My child is included in all extra-curricular activities, trips and clubs	46%	46%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Teachers have high aspirations for my child	19%	35%	27%	12%	8%	0%
I would recommend this school to another parent	27%	44%	18%	7%	2%	0%